

Tram Road Veterans' Nursing Home

Construction of the Clifford Sims veterans nursing home located at 4419 Tram Road in Springfield was 95% complete on 1 April 2003, to be completed by June 2003, according to the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs press release dated 9 April 2003.

Dedication ceremonies are planned for late June, and the first residents of the new home are expected to be admitted by August 2003.

The home is named for Army Staff Sergeant Clifford Sims, who was awarded the Medal of Honor for extraordinary heroism when he gave his life while serving in Viet Nam. Sergeant Sims was born and reared in Port St. Joe. He was 25 years old when he died.

The \$11 million facility will accommodate 120 veterans – 60 in skilled nursing care and 60 Alzheimer's patients. Two-thirds of the funding will come from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and one third from the Florida Department of Veteran's Affairs. Representative Alan Bense (R-Panama City) led the drive for funding in Tallahassee.

To be eligible for admittance to the home, the person must be a veteran and must:

- *Be in need of nursing home care.
- *Have been a resident of the state for 1 year immediately preceding, and at the time of application for, admission to the home.
- *Not owe money to the department for services rendered during any previous stay at a department facility.
- *Have applied for all financial assistance reasonably available through governmental sources.

Admittance priority must be afforded in the following order of priority to an eligible veteran who is in need of nursing home care and who:

- *Has a service-connected disability as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, or was discharged or released from military service for disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty, and the disability is the condition for which nursing home care is needed.
- *Has a non-service-connected disability and is unable to defray the expense of nursing home care and so states under oath before a notary public or other officer authorized to administer an oath.

For more information contact the nursing home administrator Mr. Wallay Warren in the Springfield Community Center, Suite 1 at 850-785-1678. The community center is located on Highway 22, near City Hall. Updates on construction progress may be obtained at www.floridavets.org . Then click on "nursing homes."

SOURCE: Tyndall RAO Staff